

**PEPTIDES FOR THE TREATMENT OF
SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS AND
METHODS OF TREATING SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is disclosed for treating systemic lupus erythematosus in a mammalian subject, comprising administering to said subject an effective dose of at least one laminin peptide, or an analog or a derivative thereof. In one exemplary embodiment, the laminin peptide is selected from the group consisting of R38 (SEQ. ID. NO. 1), and claimed R38 analogs and derivatives thereof including 5200 (SEQ. ID. NO. 10), 5104 (SEQ. ID. NO. 15), 5105 (SEQ. ID. NO. 16), 5106 (SEQ. ID. NO. 17), 5107 (SEQ. ID. NO. 18), 5108 (SEQ. ID. NO. 19), 5109 (SEQ. ID. NO. 20), 5110 (SEQ. ID. NO. 21). The laminin peptides of the present invention may be prepared by known chemical synthetic methods or by biotechnological methods. The invention also provides assays useful for the diagnosis of and following pathological activity course of systemic lupus erythematosus in patients suffering therefrom. In addition, the subject invention concerns a method of treating systemic lupus erythematosus in a subject comprising the extracorporeal removal of lupus antibodies from the subject's plasma and returning the plasma to the subject.